

V. *Letter from Doctor Pinkham, secretary of Board of Medical Examiners, State of California, regarding income from annual license tax against doctors of medicine.*

San Francisco, California,
May 18, 1929.

Yours of May 17; Re: Annual Registration.
Dear Doctor Kress:

We received your letter at 11 a. m. Saturday, and could only refer to the annual report of the Board of Medical Examiners published in each issue of the directory in order to report the receipts from annual tax during the past ten years ending December 31, 1928, which was tabulated as follows:

1918.....	\$ 17,201.39
1919.....	20,280.27
1920.....	18,053.05
1921.....	20,302.39
1922.....	18,421.02
1923.....	17,154.90
1924.....	23,555.37
1925.....	19,961.93
1926.....	22,227.36
1927.....	13,410.08
1928.....	12,562.89

Total for ten years.....\$203,130.65

In the above tabulation we have combined the receipts for annual tax with the receipt for delinquent tax. The reduction in the 1927 receipts is due to the legislature having reduced the annual tax from \$2 to \$1.

In reply to your query as to how many licensed M. D.'s there are in California, our records compiled for 1929 show that there are 8001 graduates of medical schools licensed as physicians and surgeons practicing in California, and in addition to this list there are 1701 licensed in California, but located in other states.

C. B. PINKHAM, M. D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

[Editors' Note.—From the above figures it is noted that the licensed physicians of California have practically paid in a total sum about equal to that now in the reserve fund of the state examining board.]

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO*

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. II, No. 6, June 1904

From some editorial notes:

... *Constitution and By-Laws.*—At the Paso Robles meeting of the state society the new Constitution and By-Laws, practically as recommended and with only minor alterations—mostly of phraseology—was adopted. This action is exceedingly important, for many reasons. The word "regular" was stricken from the document, and the personnel of the membership in county societies is placed absolutely in the hands of each county society. Every legally qualified practitioner of medicine who does not claim to practice any "pathy," should be eligible to membership. . . .

... *Synthetic Remedies.*—The "newer materia medica," largely composed of synthetics and coal-tar derivatives, is both an interesting and a staggering problem. Many men of excellent judgment and cool, far-seeing calculation, have expressed the opinion that these newer chemicals are the materia medica of the future, and that their introduction and use will go far toward making of medicine a more exact science. This may or may not be true. . . .

... *Association Journals.*—We, in the West, are greatly favored of Divine Providence in many ways. We are not quite so narrow-minded and hidebound as some of our friends and professional relatives in

* This column aims to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of state society work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and recent members.

the East, where, especially in New York, harmonious organization has been prevented for a number of years largely through the small and narrow-minded intellect of a few men. . . .

... *The Revised Constitution.*—At the May meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society, amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the society were introduced. . . .

... All county societies now have the privilege of electing to membership any legally qualified physician who does not practice nor claim to practice, nor advertise himself as being connected with any special and particular school of medicine. . . .

From an article on "Pure Food Law" by M. E. Jaffa, University of California, Berkeley:

... The measure, in brief, provides for the prevention of adulteration, misbranding and imitation of foods and food materials, and for regulating interstate traffic therein. . . .

From the reports of the secretary of the Medical Society of the State of California at the thirty-fourth annual session at Paso Robles, April, 1904:

Report of Secretary.—To the Officers and Delegates of the Legislative Branch of the Medical Society of the State of California:

I herewith submit my annual report:

Pursuant to the policy of the Constitution, the work of the organization of county societies has proceeded energetically during the past year, and since our last meeting fourteen new county societies have been affiliated. They are as follows: Butte, with a membership of 15; Kern, 16; Kings, 9; Mendocino, 20; Merced, 9; Monterey, 20; Napa, 22; San Benito, 10; San Luis Obispo, 14; Santa Cruz, 19; Shasto, 16; Sonoma, 46; Ventura, 15; Yolo, 10, thus giving the society an increase of 241 in membership through the medium of new societies organized. . . .

Report of the Publication Committee.—The alternate plan was to set pretty high advertising rates; a high standard of ethics for the advertising pages; prosecute an energetic campaign for good, high-class advertising; stimulate organization throughout the state; publish the very best journal that time and hard work could make; invest more money for the first two or three years than would be called for by the other plan, but eventually secure a self-supporting publication that would not be a source of expense to the society after the investment of the first few years. This latter plan was adopted as the better business policy. . . .

Report of the Memorial Committee, J. Lambert Asay, M. D., Chairman.

... There comes a time in our deliberations when the busy cares of association work and the consideration of scientific problems should be laid aside for a few brief moments, that we may hearken to the voice of sorrow and pay tribute to our dead. . . .

... The life of the physician is by no means conducive to longevity. Every step in his pathway is beset by hazard. Each sleepless night, every anxious vigil over disease and suffering, the repeated drafts upon the vital forces by the conscientious discharge of duties, are sure to lessen the number of his days. Yet though the sum of his years be few, there is condensed in this short life more ripened experience and a greater familiarity with human nature and impulses, than is given to those of other pursuits or professions who have reached beyond their three score and ten. . . .

From reports of county medical societies:

Sacramento County.—The Sacramento Society for Medical Improvement met in regular session at the office of Dr. W. A. Briggs on March 17, it being also the annual meeting of the society. . . .

... The paper of the evening was read by Dr. Herbert C. Moffitt of San Francisco, on "Some Un-